

3-21-1867

Letter from Anne Whitney, Paris, France, 1867 March 21

Anne Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Whitney, Anne and Wellesley College Archives, "Letter from Anne Whitney, Paris, France, 1867 March 21" (1867). *Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence*. 127.
https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence/127

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4) at Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. For more information, please contact ir@wellesley.edu.

Paris 148 Rue Rivoli March 21-1867.

My beloved home-

This is Paris & no dream
Evening - & a pleasant fire of wood & soft
coal in the little bed-room out of which
opens another little bed-room for the 3^d
member of the company - while the 2^d
occupies an adjacent Chamber glowing with
like comforts. It was a good thing that
C. Howe was here to arrange matters for
us - for we are here in this most
little boarding house just about opposite
the Louvre in the very heart of the
fair city within a minute's walk of
the Tuileries wh. is now being connected
with the Louvre - & all for 82.00 etc.
But to take up the thread of our
adventures from the time of my last
pencil note to you on board the ship.
Our passage was a long rough one as
you saw. The Capt. said we might cross before
& never have so stormy a passage. We
arrived at Valmont Sat. A. M. & found the
English coast more beautiful than we
had any conception of. The hills rise mag-
nificently cultivated to the water's edge - & the
fields divided as we remembered by the pretty
hedges. I had never looked so lovely before. Not even
dear to Jack & his wife. Valmont itself
as seen from the water was found as words to
describe. We waited there about 8 hours on
cock of some repairs. & then ^{continued} our dis-
gusting way across the English Channel. This
passage threw into eclipse all previous
experiences of brine. We had what is most
unusual, both fog & wind - & Jack being so
that the vessel tumbled & rolled
intemperance - Sunday was vile.

The Capt. very anxious in a
nice fog - the steamer surrounded by
other vessels & drifting so we knew whether
in spite of all efforts to keep her in
place. But all things have an end & at
last she. A full heavy armed in the
road the night before we sailed up & the
off. At home - Prof. Land opened her skin
& smiled upon us with the love that day
in her skin for 2 weeks or more - the
few hours was as friendly & we
with her. I with her the color
of the building the fangs look & all
the full. we took the cars for
Rome & arrived there about 8 o'clock.
I forgot to say that we found G. Had
a car at the wh. at home & his
presence & previous knowledge of the
land & its ways has greatly facilitated
our progress here. In fact he has thus far
taken all care of our minds.
I am afraid to begin upon the subject
of Rome but I shd. grow silly &
overcast in Belmont says. Perhaps
you know that Rome is the ancient
capital of Dormancy. That from the
conqueror went from his palace here
to the conquest of England. But all that
one might know of its history wd. never
suggest the faintest image of the great
aged beautiful old city. Its Churches
cathedral palaces & houses their solid
rock & stone all grewed - grewed by
the tooth of time. We saw that palace
of Mon of Dormancy in wh. the conqueror
crushed his ambitious dream - & then
& there all that early hist. wh.
history has seems all fabulous time
became real & substantial. Of course

I have never seen anything to compare
in beauty with the Churches there. There
are finer & greater ones yet to be seen -
but I don't think it is possible to see
any wh. will impress as more. In the
Cathedral Chapels the heart of Caesar de
Lion was buried (since he bequeathed his
heart to Rome he no doubt loved the
place) - & a tablet in the floor bears this
inscription - Cor

Richardi Regis Angliae

Normanniae Ducis
Christi Domini 1135

but the heart wh. when the case was
opened & the eyes were full into ashes
has been removed to the museum & we
did not have time to go there. But a
stronger interest was in the association
with Joan & her who was tried & condemned
& burned ^{in Rome} there. We saw but on the
side only, the prison in wh. she was
confined & from wh. she was led to
execution & the place where this French
hero & martyr of all ^{French} ~~the~~ ^{French} ~~the~~ ^{French}
was executed one to death. On the
spot there is a fountain surrounded
by a statue of justice! Near by is the
place at that time occupied by the
Duke of Bedford one of her murderers.
I believe. You wd. be interested in Miss
Grimké's little book about Joan & her -
it is excellent. Doctor & Mother also wd.
enjoy it. The infinite variety of sculptures,
the some of them actual statues on the
doctrines of the medieval artists, wh.
cover the floor of the walls of the Churches
in a wonder to the eye - & I shd.
delight to give some pages just to the study

I saw one of these buildings - but that they
^{these canyons} are good in themselves - not beautiful -
but interesting, full of meaning, & giving
an excellent picture of the whole effect -
It is useless to try to give any idea of the
great extent of this funny old town -
rich & strange beyond any anticipation -
narrow streets, sidewalks where but one
can walk - you take yourself to the
middle of the street - & find in some
places so many that opposite neighbors
are in it, & shake hands across. But
even there are open places & streets
of considerable width. The walks are
open - another admiration of everything
the women of the people with their
good brown French faces & blue caps &
weathered wooden shoes. The boys the
babies, the drunken & old ladies & strong
stout women horses such as Rose
Barber & family & wh. but along with
immense indifference & dwarf such
little loads. Well we left Reno
that morning at 9 o'clock - not having seen
more than an insignificant fraction
of it. I only hope that Sarah & Edw.
& Camie & every body who ever I love & who
ever stand a sea voyage will go there
some day & see all we saw & all we
left unseen - Our rooms at the hotel -
wh. was on the quay - commanded a
lovely view of the river up & down - with
two handsome bridges.

It is matter of
surprise that we are so strong & so
quickly olived of ^{our} sea legs.